

Serial No. 10/538,906

Art Unit: 5805
Examiner: William Ray Harp

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 6 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 21 with the following:

The membrane 21, and accompanying top sheet ~~19~~ 23, are located on a membrane support 25 which is constructed from a curved, foraminous plate having many punched holes 27 therethrough. The whole assembly is bolted together around its edges with bolts 29. The detailed cross-section in Figure 9 shows two membrane assemblies 31 and 33 being welded together and each to a support 13.

On page 7 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 15 with the following:

At the lowest position of each membrane assembly, a discharge pipe 37 opens at a position just above the membrane. Discharge pipe 37 extends upwardly and towards the wall of the container through which it passes as shown in Figure 5. As best seen in Figure 7 discharge pipe 37 forms part of a discharge assembly which includes three such pipes 37 connected to a common pipe 39, valves ~~41~~ 40 being provided in each discharge pipe 37. As illustrated in Figure 8, common pipe 39 can, for discharging purposes, be connected to a hose 41 which leads to a pipe 43 extending to the top of a silo 45 to which it is connected by inlet 47. Compressed air from blower 55 applies pressure to the tank 51. This pressure pushes the bulk powder up discharge pipes 37 so that it can be conveyed by ~~pipe~~ hose 41 to the silo 45.

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On page 8 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 8 with the following:

In order to empty the tank of bulk powder the blower 55 is connected to the air supply header pipe 53 and a discharge hose 41 is connected to the discharge header pipe 39. The compressed air valves 57 and 61 are then opened to raise the pressure of the tank to approximately 1.8 bar pressure for opening the conveying outlet valves ~~41~~ 40 in sequence to empty the tank. During emptying, valve 63 is opened to add air to the powder in order to create the correct powder and air mixture for pneumatic conveying. When all material has been discharged, the blower 55 is stopped and the tank is allowed to return to atmospheric pressure by venting through the empty conveyor pipe 43 into the silo 45. The conveying air and venting air is passed through a filter 69 so that the air venting to atmosphere is clean.